



**Seeley Genealogical Society's Nomination for  
John R. Seeley  
to the FGS Living Volunteer Hall of Honor, April 2003**

The Seeley Genealogical Society [SGS] is pleased and honored to nominate John R. Seely to the Federation of Genealogical Society's [FGS] Living Volunteer Hall of Honor.

In 1983, Mr. Seely developed a database to compile the relationships of Seeley [spelled a variety of ways] ancestors. The database Mr. Seely developed is now called the SGS Ancestor File and it contains tens of thousands of names of SEELEY descendants based on data sheets, birth, marriage, and death records that have been sent to him over the past 20 years. He started out by indexing about 25 notebooks that SGS President Robert Cox had copied from SGS Member Esther Houtz Walter's research. Since then, John has added to the SGS Ancestor File info he obtained from Hap Ward's and Harold Fanjoy's book *The Seelys of New Brunswick* containing 30,000 names of Seeleys from Eastern Canada, Annie Cilley's book on the Isles of Shoals Cilleys, Helen Ault's Obadiah Seely lineage books, and Elaine Wallace's compilations.

Mr. John Seely's SGS Ancestor File is all the more valuable to the Society since he keeps track of the names and contact information of those persons who send him ancestor data. This way, Mr. Seely can put researchers in contact with people researching similar lines.

In 1997, John produced four name indices from his SGS Ancestor file for use by researchers during the SGS Reunion in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. In 2003, Mr. Seely worked with former SGS President Dan Seelye to update the four name indices for use at the 2003 SGS Reunion in Williamsburg, VA and to put the indices into MS Word format for sale on a Compact Disk.

Mr. Seely was elected First Vice President and Membership Chairperson of SGS during its Reunion/Membership Meeting in 1993. In this position, he was the ranking member of the SGS Executive Board immediately following the President. As Membership Chairperson, we was responsible for recruiting new members, collecting annual dues, maintaining a member name and address file that he updated and provided quarterly to the SGS Newsletter Editor. The file contained over 400 names.

Mr. Seely supported his late wife Maureen in many of her genealogical pursuits including the development of training materials for basic Genealogy courses given during SGS Reunions and SGS Newsletter articles on Seeley research issues.

In 1995, the SGS President appointed Mr. Seely to the Corrections Committee for the Mormon Church's Family History files and for the SGS Publication *Descendants of Robert Seeley (1602-1667) & Obadiah Seeley (1614-1657) Generations One Through Five*. Maintaining this and the two succeeding SGS Publications (*The Sixth and Seventh Generation Families*) up-to-date is important since they are the only official SGS compilations of Seeley ancestors.

Mr. Seely completed a detailed analysis and gave a presentation at the 1995 SGS Reunion in Salt Lake City titled *Some Reflections on the Relationship Between Robert & Obadiah Seeley [the two earliest Seeley immigrants of record]*. His presentation was published as an article in the November 1995 SGS Newsletter. The issues he surfaced have helped determine the direction of subsequent SGS research efforts.

In August 1997, Mr. Seely volunteered to assist with responding to orders and mailing copies of the SGS Publications. Some of his volunteer efforts may seem minor and were unheralded but his loyalty and varied efforts to the Society have helped significantly contributed to its solid foundation.

In 1999, the SGS Chief Genealogist established a team to help respond to persons submitting queries. Mr. Seely has been one of the most active members of that Query Response Team using his invaluable SGS Ancestor File. A Newsletter response is now published to every query due, significantly, to Mr. Seely's efforts.

In 2003, the SGS President, recognizing John's extraordinary judgment, knowledge, and experience, by appointing him to the Nominating Committee to select candidates to lead the Seeley Genealogical Society in the future.

Mr. John Seely sets an outstanding example of volunteerism and energy so critical to a Genealogical Society. The Seeley Genealogical Society believes that by publishing a summary of his tireless efforts, FGS could help motivate others to follow his example.